

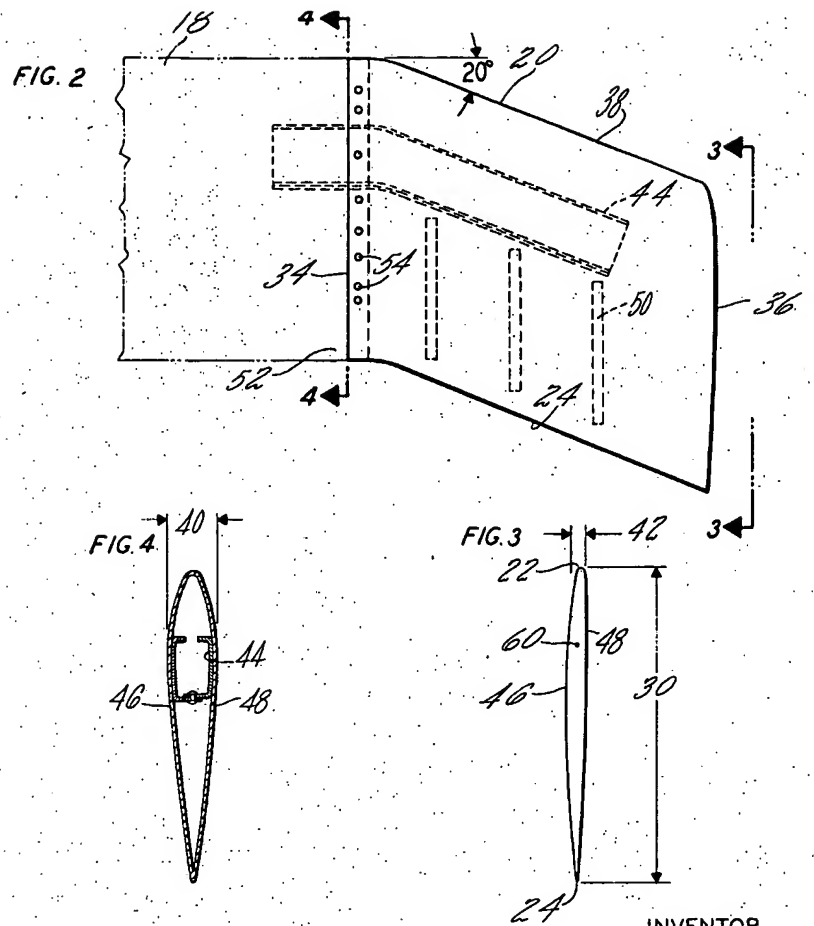
REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks. Claims 8-13, and 18-19 have been amended and claims 1-7 and 14 have been cancelled. New claims 23-35 are presented. Accordingly, claims 8-13 and 15-35 are pending.

Claims 1, 3, 8, 12, 13 15-18 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Braswell* (4120610). Initially, *Braswell* does not utilize a main rotor blade spar. *Braswell* utilizes a metallic nose spar 12 and a trailing edge spar 18. The nose spar 12 is closed with a closure channel 60. Such construction is required to contain the fiberglass bands 72, 74 therein which transfer centrifugal forces in the blade to a grip (best seen in *Braswell* Figures 2 and 7). Thus, *Braswell* fails to disclose or suggest a main rotor blade spar and/or a structural tip spar as no such main blade spar or structural tip spar section is disclosed or suggested. Moreover, *Braswell* fails to disclose or suggest a main rotor blade spar which is partially surrounded by a structural spar section and which is partially surrounded by a splice cap.

Claims 1-6, 8-12 and 15-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Monteleone* (3721507) in view of *Braswell* (4120610). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as there is absolutely no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to modify *Monteleone* in view of *Braswell* as proposed. *Monteleone* discloses at Column 3, lines 32-47 (reproduced below) that *the tip skins 46, 48 are sleeved over the outboard end 52 of the blade central portion 18 and connected by mechanical fastening 54.*

Structurally, tip portion 20 includes spar or support member 44, which extends for the full thickness of the airfoil shape and is preferably C-shaped and connected to both the upper wall 46 and the lower wall 48 thereof by any convenient means, such as riveting, welding, bonding or mechanical fastening. Tapering rib members, such as 50, extend rearwardly or toward trailing edge 24 from support 44 and are selectively shaped to cooperate with support 44 and top surface 46 and bottom surface 48 of blade tip portion 20 to define a cross section of airfoil shape. Preferably, the skin which defines top and bottom surfaces 46 and 48 is sleeved over the outboard end 52 of blade central portion 18 and connected thereto by any convenient means, such as mechanical fastenings 54.



As *Monteleone* utilizes a skin-to-skin interface with the support 44 contained completely therein, there is no motivation to mount a tip cap to the support 44 as proposed by the Examiner. That is, the skin-to-skin interface is the attachment. A tip cap cannot even be mounted to the support 44 as the support is completely contained within the skins 46, 48. *Monteleone* makes no reference to any other interface. As discussed above, *Braswell* does not even utilize a main rotor blade spar. As such, there is no motivation to add "a splice cap to an open side of the tip spar for the purposes of reinforcing the rotor tip" as suggested by the Examiner. To accept the Examiner's motivation is to accept that the support 44 and skin-to-skin attachment of *Monteleone* is not sufficient. Such lack of sufficiency would suggest that *Monteleone* is not enabled. This cannot be sustained as the patent is presumed valid. The only motivation to make the combination as proposed is by following the

knowledge disclosed within the present invention. This is impermissible usage of hindsight in an attempt to re-create Applicant's device. Accordingly, the claims are properly allowable.

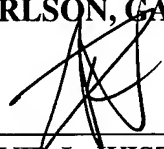
Even if the combination were properly made, there are differences between the claimed invention and the teachings of the cited references so that the combination does not meet the limitations of Applicant's claims. Notably, neither reference discloses a main blade spar yet alone a main spar and a tip spar. As previously discussed, *Braswell* utilizes a metallic nose spar 12 and a trailing edge spar 18 and *Monteleone* is silent on the main rotor blade spar as the support 44 only extends for a short distance across the skin-to-skin interface. As such, the proposed combination fails to disclose or suggest a main rotor blade spar and/or a structural tip spar section as no such main blade spar is disclosed or suggested. Moreover, the combination fails to disclose or suggest a main rotor blade spar which is partially surrounded by a structural spar section and which is partially surrounded by a splice cap.

Please charge \$400 to Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, for 8 claims in excess of 20. If any additional fees or extensions of time are required, please charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1482.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

These drawings replace the previously filed drawings. No new matter has been added.

Figure 1 has been amended to include a longitudinal axis.

Figures 2-7 have been amended to include numbers for inherent features and for minor consistency discrepancies.